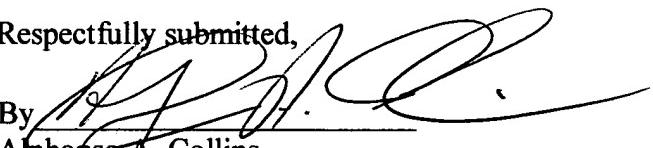


**REMARKS**

Claims 1-15 are pending. Claims 3-6, and 8-14 have been amended to remove multiple claim dependencies, and to correct minor claim informalities. Claim 16 has been added. Entry of the above Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested prior to the examination of this application. If there are any questions regarding this Preliminary Amendment or this application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this would expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

Dated: November 7, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

By   
Alphonso A. Collins

Registration No.: 43,559  
DARBY & DARBY P.C.  
P.O. Box 5257  
New York, New York 10150-5257  
(212) 527-7700  
(212) 753-6237 (Fax)  
Attorneys/Agents For Applicant